Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius country in view of large scale misuse of this route by various OCBs consequent upon which there is a huge revenue loss to Government;

(b) if so, Government's views in his regard;

(c) whether Government have brought this fact to notice of the Mauritius Government regarding misuse of DTAA by some OCBs; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Mauritius authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Subsequent to detection of certain irregularities by Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought out an amendment in Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) regulations on 29 November, 2001 banning fresh investment by OCBs under the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) in India.

(c) and (d) The perceived abuse of treaty provisions was discussed by Indian Finance Minister with Mauritian Deputy Prime Minister & Finance Minister on 8 April, 2002, and in pursuance to these discussions an official level meeting is likely to be held in July, 2002 to review the working of Indo-Mauritius Treaty with reference to any possible misuse of the Treaty and to ensure that there is an effective exchange of information between the competent authorities of the two countries under the Treaty.

Return of personal clothing of Martyrs from Lahore jail

†954. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have demanded from the Lahore jail authorities in Pakistan to hand over the clothes of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, the Martyrs of freedom-struggle; and

(b) the reasons for not procuring the last clothes of these martyrs from Lahore jail keeping in view, the faith of the billions of people in these martyrs?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government had requested Government of Pakistan to return the clothes and other personal effects of Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. Government of Pakistan, however, informed that concerned authorities had indicated their inability to locate the articles as the jail in which Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru were hanged in 1931 was demolished and all records of temporary nature were destroyed.

Pendency of Application at Bangalore Passport Office

955. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Bangalore passport office;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to open new passport offices in the State; and

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Number of applications pending for issuance of Passport at Passport Office, Bangalore as on 16.07.2002 was 1742. A passport application is considered to be pending after a clear police verification report has been received and the application is complete in all respects. After receipt of clear police verification report passports are issued and despatched by Passport Office, Bangalore within 8 days.

(b) No request has been received from the Govt. of Karnataka to open a new passport office in Karnataka.

(c) Does not arise.

Organising World Powers against United Jehad Council

956. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken an opportunity to bring home to the